

It has been proposed to hold a meeting for the discussion of this matter, establish an association of railway surgeons, and draw up certain rules for its guidance. For this movement I ask the sympathy and support of the rank and file of the profession, and dare express the hope that none will be found willing to accept service at rates lower than those fixed on by the association as fair and in proportion to the work and responsibilities.

Clubs and societies have enjoyed the full advantage of keen competition and want of combination in an overcrowded profession, till the fees have dropped almost to the vanishing point. Combination and *esprit de corps* may yet recover the lost ground. In supporting one another let us remember the fight is not only for those in possession of appointments, but also for their successors for all time. The medical profession wants one association absorbing every registered practitioner, and the several defence and minor associations; then its organised strength could be efficiently used to protect the interest of its members.

Every member of the British Medical Association should endeavour to induce those not on its roll to join.

While we applaud the plucky fight in Cork seems a fitting time to arrange for the discussion of club practice at the Ethical Section at the London meeting.—I am, etc.,

Enniskillen, March 25th.

L. KIDD, M.D.

OBITUARY.

WILLIAM TOWERS SMITH, M.R.C.S.

WE regret to have to announce the death of Mr. Towers Smith, a well-known member of the profession in London. William Towers Smith was born in Normandy in 1836. He came of a family distinguished in military history; his uncle, Sir Lionel Smith, was an aide-de-camp to His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent; his father was a captain in the 2nd Queen's; and he himself, at the age of 18, received a commission in the 17th Lancers, and served with that gallant regiment in the Crimea. A few years later he left the army and went to study medicine at Edinburgh, where his genial manners and the enthusiasm with which he adopted the interests of his new profession enabled him to form a lifelong friendship with many of the leaders of the Scottish school of medicine. Coming to London, he finished his course by attending lectures at St. Mary's Hospital, where he had the benefit of instruction at the hands of both the Lanes, of Sibson, Coulson, and Handfield Jones. For his teachers and associates, both in Edinburgh and St. Mary's, Mr. Smith had a profound affection and veneration, and his mind was stored with personal anecdotes, which he had a remarkable faculty for relating.

Becoming a Member of the College of Surgeons in 1861, he entered at once upon the duties of busy practice in Kensington, where he resided for more than twenty years, and was universally respected. Nearly ten years ago, however, his health failed, and he was obliged to give up work and retired into the country. Once more restored to mental, and in some degree to bodily, vigour, he returned to London, and practised for a time in the neighbourhood of the Courts of Justice. While there he had medical charge of the witnesses for the *Times* during the famous Parnell Commission trial. Having now for the first time in his life both health and leisure he applied himself to the study of dietetics, and matured the system in connection with which his name has become most familiar. Recognising the influence of the body weight upon health, and the great importance of dealing with excessive obesity, he carefully considered the various methods which have from time to time found advocates, eliminated their several fallacies, and choosing what was best in each, put his views to the test of experience in the workhouses and elsewhere, and already, before he had been generally heard of in his new pursuit, had achieved a large measure of success. His reputation quickly grew in the first instance exclusively amongst the members of his profession.

His relations with his colleagues were always of the most cordial character, and he was rarely accessible but through their medium. This, added to his great knowledge of foods,

his large experience as a practitioner, his great enthusiasm, and, above all, the valuable personal gift by which he endeared himself to his patients and obtained a firm hold on their confidence secured for him in a few years a considerable amount of professional success.

Three years ago, however, his health suffered severely from an attack of influenza followed by pneumonia. He had long suffered from emphysema and chronic bronchitis, and when, on March 11th, he was again seized with influenza, quickly followed by pneumonia, it was shortly evident that he must succumb. He died on the morning of the 16th, regretted by all who knew him and, unhappily, too soon to have reaped a just harvest for the excellent seed of work that he had sown. He leaves a widow and two children.

EDWARD PARKE, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.,

West Derby, Liverpool.

ONE of the oldest and most respected members of the profession in Lancashire has passed away in the person of Mr. Edward Parke, whose death took place at Southport on March 12th. Mr. Parke was born on May 24th, 1808, at Edgehill, then a village on the outskirts of Liverpool; and was educated at the school of Dr. Shepherd, at Gateacre. He was apprenticed to his brother, Mr. J. Parke, who was in practice as a surgeon at Edgehill; and thence proceeded to Guy's Hospital, and subsequently to Paris. In 1836 he settled in practice in West Derby, then a country village, where he remained until his retirement in 1881. During his long and prosperous career he carried on a large and high-class practice, and enjoyed the entire confidence of his patients, with whom he was deservedly popular. He was much devoted to outdoor exercises, especially archery and fishing, and in his pursuit of the gentle craft he visited nearly every part of the United Kingdom, generally in the company of some congenial friend. He was also a good judge of art, and himself a painter in oil and watercolour of no mean ability. For some time he was a member of the West Derby Local Board, but otherwise he took little part in parochial affairs. Lithe, active, energetic, and spare in form, he did much of his professional work on foot, especially in his earlier days. A few years before his retirement he took into partnership Dr. T. R. Judson, also a Guy's man, who succeeded to the practice. Since 1881 he has lived in Southport, occupying himself largely with literary and other congenial pursuits.

GEORGE THOMAS LEE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

IN dying at the early age of 34, Mr. Lee has left but partly fulfilled the promise of a useful life, and prematurely closed a career which bid fair to prove valuable in his selected line of practice—psychological medicine. Mr. Lee obtained his medical training in London at University College Hospital, and upon qualifying in 1883 at once commenced the active practice of lunacy by taking the post of assistant medical officer in the Fisherton House Asylum, Salisbury. He devoted his life to this work, taking posts at the Institute for the Insane, Coton Hill, Stafford, and finally settling down at the County Asylum in that city, where he pursued his duties to within a fortnight of his death. Mr. Lee was greatly beloved by his fellow workers, and his loss will be deplored while his memory will be respected.

LOUIS FLORENTIN CALMEIL, M.D.

DR. LOUIS FLORENTIN CALMEIL, the oldest and one of the most justly celebrated specialists in psychological medicine in France, died on March 11th in his 97th year. Born at Yversay, Poitou, in 1798, he studied medicine first in the preparatory school of Poitiers, and afterwards in Paris. He was for some time *externe* under Dupuytren, but having been "shaken" on one occasion by that great but rough-mannered surgeon, he had himself transferred to another service. In due course he obtained the post of *interne*, and was appointed to the great lunatic asylum of Charenton. He was at that time about 24 years of age, and he remained attached to Charenton till he was 74. He served there as *interne* first under Royer-Collard, and afterwards under Esquirol, who took a particular interest in his career. Calmeil held all the